

should proceed to describe species of fossil animals without having properly studied the osteology of the recent species and the variations that the bones, teeth, horn, and other parts of the skeleton assume in the recent species, which they have the opportunity of studying in a more complete manner than they can have in the case of fossil species. More especially I object to the practice of such students as describe species of fossil animals from fragments, which it would be very unwise to declare to be distinct if they belonged to some recent species which there was an opportunity of examining in a complete state and of comparing with other skeletons of allied species. Yet many fossil species have been described from such specimens, so that our catalogues are thereby encumbered with useless names.

2. NOTE ON THE HABITS OF THE KINKAJOU (*CERCOLEPTES CAUDIVOLVULUS*). BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

The Kinkajou was formerly considered a Lemur, and the manner in which it uses its feet as hands might well mislead a casual observer. I saw one the other evening in the Zoological Gardens resting on its rump with the tail coming out in front between its hind legs. It was holding in its fore feet a slice of bread, and every now and then it would take off a piece with one or the other of its fore feet, and hold it as in a hand to its mouth, or take from it small pieces with the other hand like a child eating a cake, and quite as handily; yet this animal has no opposite thumb on any of the feet, and only short fingers and toes webbed nearly to the claws.

3. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE MUSTELIDÆ. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

In my Revision of the *Mustelidæ* (P. Z. S. 1865, p. 100) I find that I neglected to give the external characters by which the two species of *Ratels* might be distinguished; they are as follows:—

Mellivora indica. Black; the back iron-grey; crown of the head white. India.

Mellivora capensis. Black; the back iron-grey; the crown and a broad stripe down each side of the back to the tail white. South Africa.

The latter species is easily known by the greater quantity of white on the head and the broad white lateral edge to the iron-grey colour on the back.

I take this opportunity of giving two illustrations of the skull of *Arctonyx collaris*, which should have accompanied my description of that species (*l. c.* p. 138).